

CLAM FISHERMEN'S REPORT

Preliminary Catch Summary

National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Surfclam - Ocean Quahog Survey
FRV DELAWARE II
Delmarva Peninsula - Georges Bank
June 03 - July 12, 2002

The 2002 region-wide survey for Atlantic surfclam, *Spisula solidissima*; and Ocean Quahog, *Arctica islandica*, was conducted in continental shelf waters, from Delmarva Peninsula to Georges Bank aboard the *FRV DELAWARE II*. The survey, conducted by the NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, provides indices of abundance and recruitment for both species. In addition, tows were made at 25 non-random sites during the survey to support on-going scientific studies.

The following charts and station data describe the distribution of surfclams and ocean quahogs during the survey. Five-minute tows were made at the speed of 1.5 knots with a hydraulic jet dredge equipped with a 5-foot wide blade and submersible pump positioned on the dredge. Survey stations were randomly selected to provide unbiased abundance measurements. Therefore, these stations were not always on or near known locations of clam concentrations.

In this report, catch quantity is recorded in numbers of clams, and depth in fathoms. Percent estimates of surfclams are also given by four categories of shell height: between 0 to 4.75", 4.76 to 5.00", 5.01 to 5.50", and greater than 5.50". Distribution plots indicate relative numbers of surfclams and ocean quahogs caught on each tow.

In an effort to make this report timely, the data are summarized from unaudited catch files. Therefore, all information in this report is considered provisional and subject to change.

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